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The False
Shakespeare Epitaph"

now at

Stratford-on-Avon

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Why, When, and By Whom
Was the Original "Mystic Shakespeare Stone" of 1616
removed from the chancel of the church, and
Where is It now

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PR 2916
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The Original "Mystic Shakespeare Stone"

(Referred to by Francis, Lord Verulam, in 1625!)

Which was placed in the chancel of the church at Stratford-on-Avon, 1616.

1616

Good Frend for Iesus SAKE forbeare
To diGG THE Dust EncloAsed HEIRe!
Blese be THE Man T/Y spares THEs Stones
And curst, be He T/Y moves my Bones

1616

Copies of the Original Inscription (none of them quite perfect!) can be seen in Ireland's **"Picturesque Views on the Avon"** (London: 1795); Valpy's Edition of **Shakespeare's Works** (London: 1832. Vol. I., page xlii); Charles Knight's **Pictorial Edition** (London: 1843. Biography, page 535); and Harriet Beecher Stowe's **"Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands"** (Boston: 1854. Vol. I., page 209—*q. v.*)

The Present False "Shakespeare Epitaph"

(Rewritten: why, when and by whom?)

Which now replaces the Original "Mystic Shakespeare Stone" of 1616.

1916

GOOD FREND FOR IESVS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DVST ENCLOASED HEARE:
BLESTE BE YE MAN YT SPARES THES STONES,
AND CVRST BE HE YT MOVES MY BONES.

1916

Note the entirely different typography (now all "Gothic" capital letters); the suppression of the peculiar and unique characteristics of the Original, with its three sizes of types; the added punctuation; the changes of the spelling in the new words "**BLESTE**" and "**HEARE**" (listen!); and the inexcusable substitution of the letters "**YE**" for the mystical monogram "**THE**" in the third line of the Original.

The "Mystic" Inscription on the Original "Shakespeare Stone" of 1616 is an Anagram, telling of the Royal Tudor (but unacknowledged, parentage of **"SHAKE-SPEARE"** (**not** his "dummy," **Shaxspere,** of Stratford-on-Avon!). It states the Authorship of the Plays and Poems bearing the name of "Shakespeare," and reveals the Secret of the Tomb in the chancel of the Stratford church.

After three centuries it has at last been perfectly deciphered (together with the English and the false-Latin Inscriptions on the Monument with the modernized bust and the challenge: **"Read if thou canst"!).**

The "Epitaph" in **"Timon of Athens,"** and the "Prophecy" in **"Cymbeline"** (in the First Folio, 1623), both of which have also been deciphered, confirm and emphasize in a startling way the mystic inscription on the Original "Shakespeare Stone."

Before this Discovery is published try to decipher it, yourself. It is a simple but most ingenious **Anagram,** and settles forever what Helen Keller has truly called: **"The greatest problem in Literature!"**

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